Juniper Creek Wilderness Study Area

1. The Study Area -- 13,150 acres

The Juniper Creek WSA (ID-16-52) is located in Owyhee County about 115 miles southwest of Boise, Idaho. The WSA includes 13,150 acres of BLM lands with no nonfederal inholdings(see Table 1).

Fifty-one percent of the WSA is bounded by primitive dirt roads and a gas pipeline. Three miles of boundary are along Owyhee Canyon Rimrock, while the remaining 7.5 miles of the 20.5-mile boundary are along nonfederal property lines. One short cherry-stem road enters the northern part of the WSA. The Yatahoney Creek WSA (ID-16-49D) is just northwest of the WSA.

The WSA was studied under Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and was included in the Owyhee Canyonlands Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement filed in October 1989. Five alternatives were analyzed in the EIS for this WSA: a partial wilderness alternative where 12,950 acres of BLM land would be designated as wilderness and 200 acres released for nonwilderness uses, which is the recommendation of this report; an all wilderness alternative; two additional partial wilderness alternatives where 3,200 and 9,930 acres would be designated as wilderness, and 9,950 and 3,220 acres, respectively, would be released for nonwilderness uses; and a no wilderness alternative where about 4,200 acres would be included within the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System as a portion of a larger wild river area.

2. Recommendation and Rationale

12,950 acres recommended for wilderness

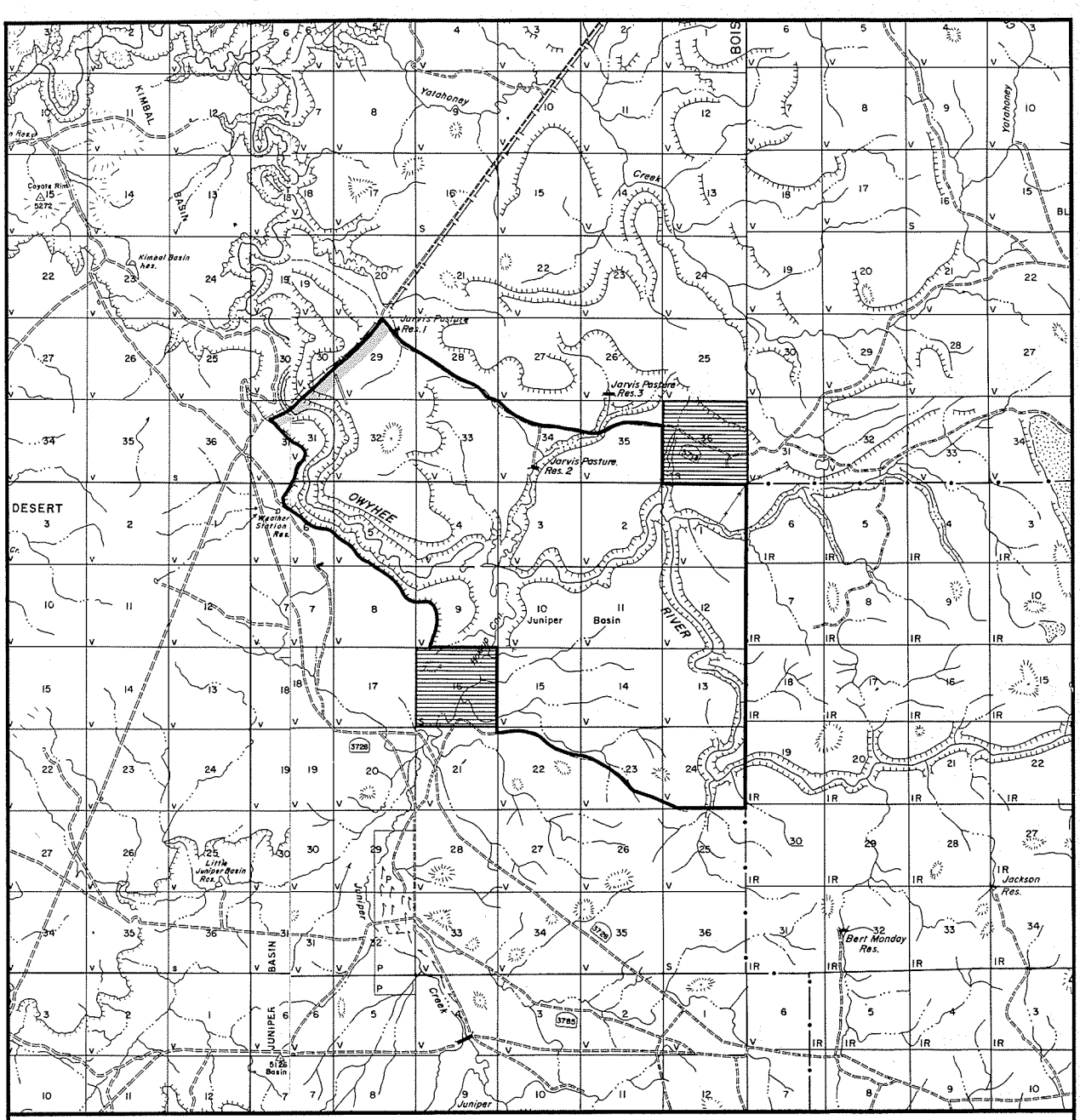
200 acres recommended for nonwilderness

The recommendation for the Juniper Creek WSA is to designate 12,950 acres as wilderness and release 200 acres for other uses. The environmentally preferable alternative is the all wilderness alternative. It would cause the least change from the natural environment over the long term. The recommendation would use all practical means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental impacts.

The 12,950 acres recommended for wilderness designation are shown as the nonshaded area on the Juniper Creek Proposal map. This recommendation would further apply to 800 acres of state land adjacent to the WSA if acquired by exchange from a willing land owner. Appendix I lists all nonfederal lands within the recommended wilderness area and provides additional information on acquisition of these lands.

The 12,950 acres recommended for wilderness designation would enhance the National Wilderness Preservation System through the addition of 16 miles of spectacularly scenic canyon and 9,750 acres of surrounding plateau. The area is natural in appearance, has outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation, and offers significant special features. The area can be managed to protect wilderness characteristics over the long term with a minimum of resource conflicts. The 12,950 acres recommended for designation are a portion of a proposed 385,080 acre Owyhee Canyonlands Wilderness which would include about 270 miles of desert canyon, 164 miles of whitewater boating opportunities and 292,640 acres of plateau.

The 200 acres of BLM land in the western part of the WSA were recommended for release for nonwilderness uses to allow for a .25-mile wide utility corridor (underground facilities only) along the existing El Paso Gas Pipeline right-of-way. The utility corridor was identified through BLM's planning process.



ID-16-52
JUNIPER CREEK
PROPOSAL

DECEMBER 1988

Table 1 -- Land Status and Acreage Summary of the Study Area
JUNIPER CREEK WSA

Within Wilderness Study Area

BLM (surface and subsurface)	13,150
Split Estate (BLM surface only)	0
Inholdings (state, private)	0
Total	13,150

Within the Recommended Wilderness Boundary

BLM (within WSA)	12,950
BLM (outside WSA)	0
Split Estate (within WSA)	0
Split Estate (outside WSA)	0
Total BLM Land Recommended for Wilderness	12,950
Inholdings (state, private)[1]	800
State land (outside WSA)	0

Within the Area Not Recommended for Wilderness

BLM	200
Split Estate	0
Total BLM Land Not Recommended for Wilderness	200
Inholdings (state, private)	0

3. Criteria Considered in Developing the Wilderness Recommendations

Wilderness Characteristics

A. Naturalness

The Juniper Creek WSA consists of a plateau dissected by 16 miles of 300- to 500-foot deep canyons. Wildlife within the WSA includes California bighorn sheep, mule deer, pronghorn, mountain lion, bobcat, coyote, river otter, beaver, raptors, waterfowl, chukars, sage grouse and redband trout. The WSA is predominantly natural with less than two percent impacted by human imprints. These imprints are limited to one-half mile of cherry-stem road, a metal building, corral and stock pond site, two livestock water reservoirs and some fencing on the plateau.

Although there are no human imprints within the canyon portion of the WSA, the El Paso Gas Pipeline and a primitive dirt road can be seen from a small canyon portion of the WSA. The road provides access to an important whitewater boating put-in point.

B. Solitude

The WSA's outstanding opportunities for solitude are attributed to the isolated, secluded canyonlands and the vastness of seemingly undisturbed desert plateau lands and distant mountain ranges.

The meandering character of the canyon and water courses provide excellent topographic screening between visitor groups. The depth of the canyons combined with limited viewing distances creates a sense of seclusion.

From high points on the plateau, hundreds to thousands of square miles of open spaces can be seen stretching from Steens Mountain in Oregon to Juniper Mountain in Idaho and southward to the Bull Run Mountains of Nevada. These vast open spaces instill a sense of separation from civilization.

Solitude is sometimes disrupted by military aircraft. The southwest corner of Idaho is a military operations area (MOA) for training pilots in low elevation, subsonic flight mostly in fighter-bomber type aircraft. Flights occur as low as 100 feet above the plateau. Due to the variation in flight patterns and schedules, impacts upon solitude to visitors vary greatly. At times, aircraft can be seen and/or heard flying all day. Other times, one can travel for several days and not see or hear a military jet.

C. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The natural features contribute to outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation found in the WSA. The scenic natural features and diversity of rugged landforms attract people interested in hunting, backpacking and river running and other activities such as sightseeing, photography, wildlife viewing, botanical studies and fishing. River running opportunities are of exceptionally high quality and considered nationally significant.

The miles of canyons, their diversely and severely eroded rock landscapes and their steep slopes create a sense of isolation or solitude, thereby enhancing the primitive recreation experience. Visitors traveling in or near the canyons are constantly aware of the forces of nature. Floating or hiking along the river and tributary streams gives a sense of participation in the movements of a natural force.

The challenge and excitement of whitewater rapids as well as several mandatory portages of rock falls add significantly to the boating experience. Hiking the rugged canyons and plateau without the aid of established trails provides a natural and arduous recreational challenge which heightens the primitive experience.

The talus slopes of the canyons encourage travel on both the river and plateau. Recreational use of the plateau concentrates near the canyon rims. Rimrock areas often offer less arduous hiking conditions than those in the canyons and provide opportunities for spectacular vistas of the canyons and of vast open spaces stretching into the distant horizon.

D. Special Features

The Juniper Creek WSA is rich in special features including scenic, wildlife and cultural values. The special features contribute significantly to the overall quality of the wilderness characteristics.

The canyons are of exceptionally high scenic quality. The combination of moving water, colorful sheer cliffs, grass-covered talus slopes and blue sky creates a stark beauty which envelopes the visitor. In places, reddish brown cliffs drop hundreds of feet to the water. These fractured, blocky rock monoliths are tinted with brilliant green, yellow and orange microflora. Near the base of the cliffs, water sometimes seeps from the fractures to nourish small, lush, clinging, deep green plant communities. The monoliths are frequently topped with a multitude of diversely eroded spires. The sheer rock walls often give way to steep slopes covered with a mosaic of red rock rubble and subdued green and yellow sagebrush and grasses.

The Owyhee River is nationally known for its whitewater boating. The East Fork Owyhee River within the WSA is a portion of a larger segment of river recommended to Congress for inclusion within the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System as a wild river.

Sensitive wildlife species found in the WSA include California bighorn sheep, bobcat, river otter and redband trout. Of particular concern is the population of bighorn sheep, a species dependent upon wildlands habitat for its survival. California bighorn sheep were reintroduced into the Battle Creek, Deep Creek and Owyhee River canyon areas in the 1960s. An estimated 40 bighorns inhabit the Owyhee Canyonlands WSAs all year around.

The WSA contains prehistoric archaeological sites of cultural value. These sites are scattered along the rim of the Owyhee River Canyon.

Diversity in the National Wilderness Preservation System

A. Assessing the Diversity of Natural Systems and Features as Represented by Ecosystems

Wilderness designation of the Juniper Creek WSA would not add a new ecosystem to the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS); however, it would add a landform not presently represented in the Sagebrush Steppe Ecosystem. The landform is dominated by rhyolite uplands cut by deep canyons. This ecosystem is represented by three designated areas with 76,699 acres. There are 35 other BLM study areas in the state under study with this ecosystem. This information is summarized on Table 2.

TABLE 2

Ecosystem Representation

Bailey-Kuchler Classification	NWPS Areas areas	NWPS Areas acres	Other BLM Studies areas	Other BLM Studies acres
Dry Domain/Intermountain Sagebrush Province				
		NATIONWIDE		
Sagebrush Steppe Ecosystem	3	76,699	136	4,359,340
		IDAHO		
Sagebrush Steppe Ecosystem	1	12,997	35	949,916
		NEVADA		
Sagebrush Steppe Ecosystem	1	32,407	29	1,273,919
		CALIFORNIA		
Sagebrush Steppe Ecosystem	0	0	5	152,431
		OREGON		
Sagebrush Steppe Ecosystem	0	0	67	1,983,074

B. Expanding the Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive Recreation Within a Day's Driving Time (Five Hours) of Major Population Centers

The Juniper Creek WSA is within a five-hour drive from Boise, Idaho. Table 3 summarizes the number and acreage of designated areas and other BLM study areas within a five-hour drive of the population center.

Table 3

Wilderness Opportunities for Residents of Major Population Centers

Population Centers	NWPS Areas		Other BLM Studies	
	areas	acres	areas	acres
Boise, Idaho	16	4,741,570	141	5,374,250

C. Balancing the Geographic Distribution of Wilderness Areas:

The Juniper Creek WSA would contribute to balancing the geographic distribution of areas within the NWPS. Regionally, the WSA would add a desert canyon system not found in designated wilderness and would help to balance opportunities to attain diverse wilderness experiences.

Manageability

The WSA is manageable in the long term to protect wilderness characteristics. There are no resource uses which could not be adequately controlled or would affect the manageability of the wilderness. The WSA is nearly 20 miles from a paved highway. Vehicle access to the WSA boundaries is mostly along dirt roads which have received minimal construction and little or no maintenance. Much of the plateau within the WSA is relatively flat but many areas (particularly those close to the canyons) are strewn with rock rubble and impassable to vehicles.

Energy and Minerals Resource Values

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the Bureau of Mines (BM) completed a mineral assessment for the WSA in 1986. The assessment found that the WSA has a low mineral potential for lead, tin and diatomite and an unknown potential for oil and gas.

The Juniper Creek WSA contains no mines, claims or prospects. It is entirely covered by oil and gas leases or lease applications but no exploration has occurred. The WSA has a low mineral resource potential for lead, tin and diatomite and an unknown mineral resource potential for oil and gas. The likelihood of any mineral resources occurring is extremely remote.

In 1989, a 60-day public review of the USGS/BM mineral survey report for the WSA was conducted. During the review, comments were submitted which resulted in follow-up consideration by the USGS. Based on this reevaluation, the USGS upgraded the mineral potential rating from low to moderate for undiscovered resources of low-grade, epithermal hot-spring gold and silver deposits in the WSA.

Impacts on Resources

The following comparative impact table summarizes the effects on pertinent resources for all alternatives considered including designation or nondesignation of the entire area as wilderness.

Table 4
Comparative Summary of the Impacts by Alternative
WSA ID-16-52 (JUNIPER CREEK)

ISSUE TOPICS	PROPOSED ACTION	NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE (NO WILDERNESS)	CANYONLANDS WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE	WILDLIFE WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE	ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE
Impacts on Wilderness Values	**WILDERNESS** (12,950 acres) No significant change in naturalness or solitude/primitive recreation opportunities on 12,950 acres from management actions. Slight enhancement in naturalness and primitive recreation on plateau from improved grazing practices and prescribed burning and from the closure of .5 mile of road to recreation use. Continued rangeland facility maintenance, however, to prevent complete rehabilitation of vehicle route. Utility corridor construction activities on adjacent nonwilderness lands to cause a loss of naturalness and primitive recreation opportunities on 120 wilderness acres. Some localized reduction in naturalness from trampling of river campsite by recreation use. Recreation use in 20 years to reach 100 user days for boating, 70 user days for backpacking and 80 user days for other activities. Such use not to affect solitude/primitive recreation opportunities overall nor naturalness away from river shoreline. **NONWILDERNESS** (200 acres) Naturalness and primitive recreation opportunities lost on 200 acres from utility corridor construction activities. Recreation use to reach 30 user days per annum in 20 years and not to affect naturalness or solitude/primitive recreation opportunities.	**NONWILDERNESS** (13,150 acres) No significant change in naturalness or solitude\primitive recreation opportunities on 11,790 acres from management actions. Slight enhancement in naturalness and primitive recreation opportunities on plateau from improved grazing practices and prescribed burning except on 1,360 acres. Naturalness and primitive recreation opportunities lost on 1,360 acres from drill seeding land treatments. Recreation use per annum in 20 years to reach 100 user days for boating, 40 user days for backpacking and 100 user days for other activities. Such use not to impact naturalness and solitude\primitive recreation opportunities overall but some localized reduction in naturalness from trampling of river campsite vegetation by recreation use. **NO ACTION SUBALTERNATIVE** Impacts under the Subalternative would be the same as those under the No Action Alternative except an additional 320 acres to have naturalness and primitive recreation opportunities lost by utility corridor construction activities.	**WILDERNESS** (3,200 acres) No significant change in naturalness or solitude/primitive recreation opportunities on 3,200 acres from management actions. Recreation use per annum in 20 years to reach 100 user days for boating, 30 user days for backpacking and 10 user days for other activities. This use not to impact naturalness or solitude/primitive recreation opportunities overall but some localized reduction in naturalness from trampling of river campsite vegetation by recreation use. **NONWILDERNESS** (9,950 acres) No significant change in naturalness or solitude/primitive recreation opportunities on 8,270 acres. Slight enhancement in naturalness and primitive recreation opportunities on plateau from improved grazing practices and prescribed burning except on 1,360 acres. Naturalness and primitive recreation opportunities lost on 1,360 acres from drill seeding land treatments. Additional loss of naturalness and primitive recreation on 320 acres from utility corridor construction activities. Recreation use to reach 100 user days per annum (10 user days for backpacking and 90 user days for other activities) in 20 years and not to affect naturalness or solitude/primitive recreation opportunities.	**WILDERNESS** (9,930 acres) No significant change in naturalness or solitude/primitive recreation opportunities on 9,810 acres from management actions. Slight enhancement in naturalness and primitive recreation opportunities on plateau from improved grazing practices and prescribed burning. Loss of naturalness and primitive recreation opportunities on 120 acres from utility corridor construction activities on adjacent nonwilderness lands. Recreation use per annum in 20 years to reach 100 user days for boating, 70 user days for other activities. Such use not to affect naturalness or solitude/primitive recreation opportunities overall but some localized reduction in naturalness from trampling of river campsite vegetation by recreation use. **NONWILDERNESS** (3,220 acres) No significant change in naturalness or solitude/primitive recreation opportunities on 1,660 acres. Loss of naturalness and primitive recreation opportunities on 1,360 acres from drill seeding land treatments and on 200 acres from utility corridor construction activities. Recreation use per annum in 20 years to reach 30 user days and have no impact on naturalness or solitude/primitive recreation opportunities.	**WILDERNESS** (13,150 acres) No significant change in naturalness or solitude/primitive recreation opportunities on 13,150 acres. Slight enhancement in naturalness and primitive recreation opportunities on plateau from improved grazing practices and prescribed burning. Recreation use per annum in 20 years to reach 100 user days for boating, 70 user days for backpacking and 100 user days for other activities. Such use not to affect naturalness or solitude/primitive recreation opportunities but some localized reduction in naturalness from trampling of river campsite vegetation by recreation use.
Impacts on the Condition and Amount of Native Vegetation (Continued next page)	**WILDERNESS** Ecological condition of native plant communities improved on 8,680 acres and retained in good condition on 4,270 acres by grazing practices. **NONWILDERNESS** Ecological condition of native plant communities improved on 200 acres by grazing practices.	**NONWILDERNESS** Ecological condition of native plant communities improved on 8,705 acres and retained in good condition on 4,270 acres by grazing practices. Native plants displaced on 175 acres by seeding.	**WILDERNESS** Ecological condition of native plant communities retained in good condition on 3,200 acres. **NONWILDERNESS** Ecological condition of native plant communities improved on 8,705 acres and retained in good condition on 1,070 acres from grazing practices. Native	**WILDERNESS** Ecological condition of native plant communities improved on 5,820 acres and retained in good condition on 4,110 acres by grazing practices. **NONWILDERNESS** Ecological condition of native plant communities improved on 2,885 acres and retained in good condition on 160 acres.	**WILDERNESS** Ecological condition of native plant communities improved on 8,880 acres and retained in good condition on 4,270 acres by grazing practices.

ISSUE TOPICS	PROPOSED ACTION	NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE (NO WILDERNESS)	CANYONLANDS WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE	WILDLIFE WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE	ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE
Impacts on the Condition and Amount of Native Vegetation (continued) (Juniper Creek WSA)			plants displaced on 175 acres by seeding.	Native plants displaced on 175 acres by seeding.	
Impacts on Selected Wildlife Populations (Bighorn Sheep, Mule Deer, Antelope and Sage Grouse)	**WILDERNESS/ NONWILDERNESS** Increased recreation use to have minimal impact to wildlife populations. Only localized temporary wildlife displacement expected during periods of recreation activity. Road closure would reduce potential for wildlife disturbance from recreational vehicle use. Increased forage availability and enhanced overall habitat condition resulting from improved grazing practices, reservoir maintenance and prescribed burning on plateau would increase wildlife populations. Utility corridor construction would cause only temporary displacement of wildlife populations.	**NONWILDERNESS/NO ACTION SUBALTERNATIVE** Increased recreation use to have minimal impact to wildlife populations. Only localized temporary wildlife displacement expected during periods of recreation activity. Increased forage availability and enhanced overall habitat condition resulting from improved grazing practices, reservoir maintenance, prescribed burning and seeding on plateau would increase wildlife populations. However, increased livestock numbers would compete with and reduce potential wildlife populations. Utility corridor construction would cause only temporary displacement of wildlife populations.	**WILDERNESS/ NONWILDERNESS** Impacts the same as those of the No Action Alternative.	**WILDERNESS** Impacts the same as those of the Proposed Action. **NONWILDERNESS** There would be increased livestock numbers to compete with and reduce potential wildlife populations in nonsuitable lands.	**WILDERNESS** Increased recreation use to have minimal impact to wildlife populations. Only localized temporary wildlife displacement expected during periods of recreation activity. Road closure would reduce potential for wildlife disturbance from recreational vehicle use. Increased forage availability and enhanced overall habitat condition resulting from improved grazing practices, reservoir maintenance and prescribed burning would increase wildlife populations.
Impacts on Semi-Primitive Motorized Recreation Use	**WILDERNESS/ NONWILDERNESS** .5 mile of interior road closed to recreational vehicle use within wilderness. Semi-primitive motorized recreation use to reach 100 user days annually in 20 years for hunting, sightseeing, rockhounding or camping in association with WSA boundary roads.	**NONWILDERNESS/NO ACTION SUBALTERNATIVE** Interior road to remain open for semi-primitive motorized recreation use. Use to reach 100 user days annually in 20 years for hunting, sightseeing, rockhounding or camping.	**WILDERNESS/ NONWILDERNESS** There are no roads/ways within canyon wilderness to be closed to recreational vehicle use. Annual use in 20 years to reach 100 user days for hunting, sightseeing, rockhounding or camping along plateau roads.	**WILDERNESS** No roads/ways closed to recreational vehicle use within wilderness. Use to reach 100 user days per annum in 20 years for hunting, sightseeing, rockhounding or camping in association with WSA boundary roads. **NONWILDERNESS** Nonsuitable lands left open for vehicle access.	**WILDERNESS** Impacts the same as those described for the Proposed Action.
Impacts on Livestock Use	**WILDERNESS/ NONWILDERNESS** Annual livestock use to remain at 1,635 AUMs over next 20 years on WSA lands.	**NONWILDERNESS/NO ACTION SUBALTERNATIVE** Annual livestock use to increase from 1,635 AUMs to 1,935 AUMs within 20 years on WSA lands.	**WILDERNESS/ NONWILDERNESS** Annual livestock use to increase from 1,635 AUMs to 1,935 AUMs within 20 years on WSA lands.	**WILDERNESS/ NONWILDERNESS** Annual livestock use to increase from 1,635 AUMs to 1,735 AUMs within 20 years on WSA lands.	**WILDERNESS** Annual livestock use to remain at 1,635 AUMs over next 20 years on WSA lands.
Impacts on Soil Erosion	**WILDERNESS/ NONWILDERNESS** Road closure to reduce associated soil erosion by 4 tons per year on wilderness lands. Grazing practices combined with prescribed burning and no projected increase in livestock use to result in 15% reduction in soil erosion on 9,950 acres of plateau.	**NONWILDERNESS/NO ACTION SUBALTERNATIVE** Grazing practices combined with prescribed burning and seeding to reduce soil erosion on plateau by 5-15%. However, moderate projected increase in livestock use to result in 10% increase in soil erosion. Overall, soil erosion on plateau to increase by 0-5%.	**WILDERNESS/ NONWILDERNESS** Impacts the same as No Action Alternative.	**WILDERNESS/ NONWILDERNESS** Grazing practices combined with prescribed burning and seeding on plateau to cause 5-15% reduction in soil erosion. This combined with small projected increase in livestock use to reduce soil erosion on plateau overall by 10%.	**WILDERNESS** Road/way closures to reduce associated soil erosion by 4 tons per year. Grazing practices combined with prescribed burning and no projected increase in livestock use to reduce soil erosion overall on plateau by 15%.

ISSUE TOPICS	PROPOSED ACTION	NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE (NO WILDERNESS)	CANYONLANDS WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE	WILDLIFE WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE	ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE
Impacts to Water Quality (Juniper Creek WSA)	**WILDERNESS/ NONWILDERNESS** Suspended sediment loads in WSA tributary streams reduced by 15%. Owyhee River sediment load not measurably affected.	**NONWILDERNESS/NO ACTION SUBALTERNATIVE** Suspended sediment loads in WSA tributary streams reduced by as much as 5%. Owyhee River sediment load not measurably affected.	**WILDERNESS/ NONWILDERNESS** Impacts the same as the No Action Alternative.	**WILDERNESS/ NONWILDERNESS** Suspended sediment loads in WSA tributary streams reduced by 10%. Owyhee River sediment load not measurably affected.	**WILDERNESS** Impacts the same as Proposed Action.
Impacts on Local Income and Jobs	**WILDERNESS/ NONWILDERNESS** Income and employment data by individual WSA is not available. For Owyhee Canyonlands WSA complex as a whole, the Proposed Action would contribute to a .3% increase in income and a .3% increase in employment over the next 20 years from livestock and recreational use of the WSAs in the 3-county area (Owyhee, Malheur and Elko Counties).	**NONWILDERNESS/NO ACTION SUBALTERNATIVE** Both income and employment from WSA complex up .4% in 20 years.	**WILDERNESS/ NONWILDERNESS** Both income and employment from WSA complex up .4% in 20 years.	**WILDERNESS/ NONWILDERNESS** Both income and employment from WSA complex up .3% in 20 years.	**WILDERNESS** From WSA complex, income up .2% and employment up .3%.

Local Social and Economic Considerations

Designation of 12,950 acres as wilderness would have no significant social or economic impacts on the local communities of Owyhee County. The impact to local income and jobs was an issue analyzed in the study of the Juniper Creek WSA.

Summary of WSA-Specific Public Comments

Public involvement has occurred throughout the wilderness review process. Certain comments received during the inventory process were considered in developing issues and various management alternatives. During the wilderness inventory for the Juniper Creek roadless unit, two public comments supported the establishment of a WSA and two opposed it. Supporting comments said the area possessed the minimum characteristics necessary to be considered for wilderness as well as supplemental values such as wildlife, scenic, vegetation and cultural resources. Those opposed to the WSA felt that the area did not have significant wilderness characteristics and that "multiple use" would be better served if the area was released from further wilderness review.

During the public review of the Owyhee and Bruneau Management Framework Plans, 51 out of 55 comments supported wilderness designation for the Owyhee Canyonlands WSA complex with no specific comments on the Juniper Creek WSA. Comments in support of wilderness designation were primarily justified on the need for long-term protection of the high quality wilderness characteristics and special features of both the canyons and the plateau. Comments opposed to wilderness designation addressed a perception that "multiple use" would provide greater public benefit, that wilderness was not multiple use, and that public benefits could be optimized more effectively through a wild river designation of the Owyhee River and with the further development of livestock and potential mineral/energy resources on the plateau and in the Owyhee River's tributary canyons.

During the public comment period on the Draft Owyhee Canyonlands Wilderness EIS, 448 written or oral comments supported all WSAs or portions of all WSAs in the Owyhee Canyonlands complex as wilderness, 46 comments opposed any wilderness in the WSA complex and 23 comments had no position. Those in support of wilderness for the Juniper Creek WSA were mostly in favor of designating the entire WSA as wilderness. Support for the entire WSA as wilderness was based upon a desire to see wildlife, vegetation and other natural resources protected in the long term. Opposition to any of the WSA becoming wilderness was based upon a desire for improved livestock management opportunities, the need for continued use of the area for motorized recreation, the need to have further opportunities for the exploration and possible development of mineral and energy resources and the need to potentially develop utility corridors.

Eleven government agencies commented on this WSA. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Idaho Department of Fish and Game supported wilderness designation to protect wildlife habitat; the Bonneville Power Administration did not object to wilderness provided there are adequate utility corridor options; the Department of the Air Force supported wilderness if no significant restrictions were placed on military overflights; and the Idaho Air National Guard opposed wilderness because of conflicts with its tactical flight training mission. The Bureau of Reclamation had no objection to wilderness designation while the Shoshone-Pauite Tribes stated the wilderness would prohibit construction of irrigation dams. The Owyhee County Commissioners opposed wilderness designation but supported national wild river designation for the Owyhee River. The Federal Aviation Agency, Soil Conservation Service and Environmental Protection Agency took no position.

Subsequent to the May 31, 1984, conclusion of the public comment period for the Draft Owyhee Canyonlands Wilderness EIS, but prior to the completion of the Final EIS, 78 written comments were received. One of the comments opposed any wilderness designation in the WSA complex, one took no position and 76 supported wilderness designation. Of the wilderness advocates, 61 supported designating the entire Juniper Creek WSA as wilderness. Most of this wilderness support was in response to a flyer sent out by the Committee for Idaho's High Desert and to an "alert" in the Sierra Club magazine.

APPENDIX I -- JUNIPER CREEK WSA
Estimated Costs of Acquisition of Nonfederal Holdings
Within Areas Recommended for Designation(1)

Legal Description	Total Acreage	Number of Owners	Type of Ownership by Estate: Surface Estate	Type of Ownership by Estate: Subsurface Estate	Presently Proposed for Acquisition	Preferred Method of Acquisition	Estimated Cost of Acquisition: Land Costs (in $)	Estimated Cost of Acquisition: Processing Costs (in $)
Parcel No. 1 T. 14 S., R. 1 W. Sec. 36	640(2)	1	State	State	Yes	Exchange	N/A	4,500
Parcel No. 2 T. 15 S., R. 1 W. Sec. 16	640(2)	1	State	State	Yes	Exchange	N/A	3,400

(1)The estimated costs listed in this appendix in no way represent a formal appraised value of the land or mineral estate but are rough estimates based on sales or exchanges of lands or mineral estates with similar characteristics to those included in the WSA. The estimates are for purposes of establishing a range of potential costs to the government of acquiring nonfederal holdings and in no way represent an offer to purchase or exchange at the cost estimate included in this appendix.

(2)Only portion of this acreage within area recommended for designation but acquisition through exchange would necessitate acquisition of entire section. The two state sections are outside but adjacent to the WSA.